

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MC-02 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SS-15 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /046 W

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O 261315Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6613

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUBLIN 568

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS PFOR PINT EI US

SUBJ: OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES FOR AMMUNITION AIRLIFT TO ETHIOPIA

REF: STATE 66352

1. AT 1300 HOURS, MARCH 26, FONOFF INFORMED US IN RESPONSE TO OUR EARLIER APPROACH (REFTEL) THAT PERMISSION HAD BEEN DENIED SEABOARD AIRLINES TO TOUCH DOWN IN SHANNON ENROUTE TO ETHIOPIA WITH ARMS SHIPMENT. DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN "BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE CARGO."

2. WE TOLD OUR FONOFF CONTACT, JEREMY CRAIG, THAT OUR INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO SUPPORT SEABOARD AIRLINES IN REQUEST FOR OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE, NOT RPT NOT TOUCHDOWN. CRAIG REPLIED THAT THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY SOME CONFUSION, SINCE SEABOARD HAD DEFINITELY REQUESTED PERMISSION TO TOUCH DOWN IN SHANNON AND ATHENS ENROUTE TO ETHIOPIA. GOI, SAID CRAIG, WOULD HAVE TO LOOK AT ITS DECISION AGAIN IF ONLY OVERFLIGHT WAS BEING REQUESTED. CRAIG COULD NOT GIVE US ANY IDEA AS TO GOI DECISION IF ONLY OVERFLIGHT WAS WANTED.

3. CRAIG ALSO COMMENTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING FROM SEABOARD AIRLINES THE PRECISE NATURE OF CARGO ON PLANE REQUESTING SHANNON LANDING PERMISSION.

4. CRAIG'S UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THE PLANE WAS TO HAVE TOUCHED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOWN AT SHANNON AT 0400 HOURS MARCH 27.

5. WE IMMEDIATELY CALLED SEABOARD AIRLINES IN SHANNON, WHICH CONFIRMED THAT IT HAD REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR LANDING AS WELL AS OVERFLIGHT AND HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN. SEABOARD HAD PLANNED TO CHANGE CREWS AT SHANNON. SEABOARD SAYS THERE WAS NO REAL CONFUSION OVER CARGO, BUT SOME TIME WAS TAKEN TO ANSWER IRISH REQUEST FOR DETAILED INFO. SEABOARD RECEIVED TURNDOWN THIS MORNING AND HAS NOTIFIED ITS OFFICE AT JFK AIRPORT OF IRISH REFUSAL TO ALLOW LANDING.

6. EMBASSY REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON ANY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROACH WE SHOULD MAKE TO IRISH. AT THIS POINT EVEN OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL DECISION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND WE ARE NOT SURE WHETHER WE CAN GET ACTION IN TIME TO ALLOW PLANE'S DEPARTURE FROM US LATER THIS EVENING. IF SEABOARD CAN GET BY WITH OVERFLIGHT ONLY, WE WILL OF COURSE MAKE URGENT REQUEST TO IRISH.

MOORE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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